

THE ASSASSINATION CHRONICLES

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"SERVING THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY, EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION."



Inside this double issue:

JFK's Limousine,
Anthony Marsh

Perfect Cover,
George Michael Evica

Blood Evidence.
Sherry Gutierrez

From Rio to Nassau,
Gordon Winslow

Dealey Plaza U.K. Special
Section

ARK Documents History
of Black
and White

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New Editor at The Chronicles
George Michael Evica
see inside

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A Holiday Message from JFK Lancer:

Thanks to all of our readers and supporters for making 1995, our first year, a great one.
We are humbled by the response to our services and pledge to continue our work,
supporting the research community, educating a new generation.

The Lancer Staff

PASSAGES

Richard Case Nagell

On November 1, 1995, in Los Angeles reportedly of heart disease.

Richard Case Nagell, 65, reputed double agent was the subject of the 1992 book, "The Man Who Knew Too Much," by Richard Russell. Nagell was a former U.S. Army Captain who purportedly worked for both the CIA and the Soviet KGB. Russell asserted in his 824-page treatise that Nagell had known Kennedy's accused killer, Lee Harvey Oswald, before the murder in Dallas and believed that Oswald was duped into thinking he was working for Fidel Castro. Nagell, a native of Greenwich, N.Y., was never interviewed by the Warren Commission or the House Select Committee, but Russell maintained that he should have been a key witness.

According to New Orleans district attorney, Jim Garrison, Nagell's family arranged a secret meeting between Garrison and Nagell in New York City. At the time of their meeting, Nagell had just been released from a federal prison on charges related to his firing a gun into the ceiling of a bank in El Paso, Texas, a short time before the assassination of President Kennedy. Nagell claimed he did this to create an absolutely foolproof alibi for himself on the day of the assassination. Nagell told Garrison that in the summer of 1963, he was an intelligence agent employed by a federal agency he refused to identify, and that he had been assigned to investigate a project involving a group of individuals that included Lee Harvey Oswald. In the course of his investigation, Nagell claimed he uncovered a "large" operation aimed at killing the president. When his superior was reassigned, and Nagell found himself frozen out of his own agency, Nagell wrote a registered letter to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, but received no reply. Nagell said he understood what that meant, that he was now on his own. Fearing that his contacts with Oswald might implicate him in the assassination if Oswald was ever arrested or investigated, he decided on the relative safety of a federal prison. Nagell said that after firing his gun into the bank ceiling, he walked outside and waited for the guard to arrest him. He was convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to ten years, but was released after three. The conviction was later overturned for lack of evidence that he ever intended to rob the bank. (From The Complete Book of Facts, The Assassination of JFK by James P. Duffy and Vincent L. Ricci and press reports.)

JAMES W. ALTGENS

On December 12, 1995



Altgens

Photographer James W. "Ike" Altgens, who documented President Kennedy's assassination for The Associated Press, has died. He was 76. A relative found the bodies of Altgens and his wife, Clara, in their home Tuesday, police said. Nephew Ron Grant said the family believes both died of natural causes. Neighbors had noticed that the couple had not been outside since Sunday and both had been suffering from the flu. Autopsies were ordered and toxicology tests were under way to determine the cause of death, said Laurie Nazareno of the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office. Nazareno states it will take up to 6 weeks for toxicology lab results. The case still "pending."

Altgens was taking pictures of the Kennedy motorcade downtown at Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963, when the president was shot. Altgens raced to a telephone and provided the first word to AP editors that Kennedy had been struck by gunfire and seriously wounded. He also took a famous photo of Mrs. Kennedy on her hands and knees on the trunk of the car and an agent climbing onto the rear bumper. But later he said he was paralyzed by the sight of the president being hit and was unable to snap the actual assassination. "It stunned me so at what I saw that I failed to do my duty and make the picture," Altgens told Richard B. Trask for a 1994 book, Pictures of the Pain. An AP bulletin quoted Altgens as saying he thought someone had set off fireworks until he saw blood on the president's head. In a bylined story later that day, Altgens wrote, "There was a burst of noise..." He was about 15 feet from the motorcade when Kennedy was assassinated. Mrs. Altgens was born in Dallas and worked as a bookkeeper.



Richard Case Nagell